

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/CA2004/000966

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 C12Q1/34 C12Q1/42 C12Q1/48 C12Q1/44

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C12Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data, BIOSIS, EMBASE

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>TYAGI S ET AL: "MOLECULAR BEACONS: PROBES THAT FLUORESCENCE UPON HYBRIDIZATION" NATURE BIOTECHNOLOGY, NATURE PUBLISHING, US, vol. 14, 1 March 1996 (1996-03-01), pages 303-308, XP000196024 ISSN: 1087-0156 cited in the application the whole document</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- -/-</p>	1-8, 20, 21

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

16 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

18/01/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	NUTIU R ET AL: "Structure-switching signaling aptamers" JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, DC, US, vol. 125, no. 16, 23 April 2003 (2003-04-23), pages 4771-4778, XP002240695 ISSN: 0002-7863 cited in the application abstract the whole document	1-18,20, 21
T	----- NUTIU RAZVAN ET AL: "Signaling aptamers for monitoring enzymatic activity and for inhibitor screening." CHEMBIOCHEM : A EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY. 6 AUG 2004, vol. 5, no. 8, 6 August 2004 (2004-08-06), pages 1139-1144, XP002309462 ISSN: 1439-4227 the whole document -----	1-18,20, 21

Continuation of Box II.2

Claims Nos.: 19

Claim 19 is not clear (Art.6 PCT), as the enzyme inhibitor is not defined by actual, concrete technical features (such as its chemical structure) which would clearly and unambiguously characterize it, but by the method of identifying said enzyme inhibitor. Such definition might well encompass known compounds irrespective of their property of being enzyme inhibitors identified by the method of the present application, and does not allow to discriminate between novel and known compounds. Furthermore, the application discloses in a clear way no enzyme inhibitors identified with the method of the present application. For these reasons, no search has been carried out on claim 19.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examining Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination before the EPO (see EPO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 19
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.